OLD CITY BLUES
VOL. 1
DIGITAL PACKAGE
ISSUES 1-4
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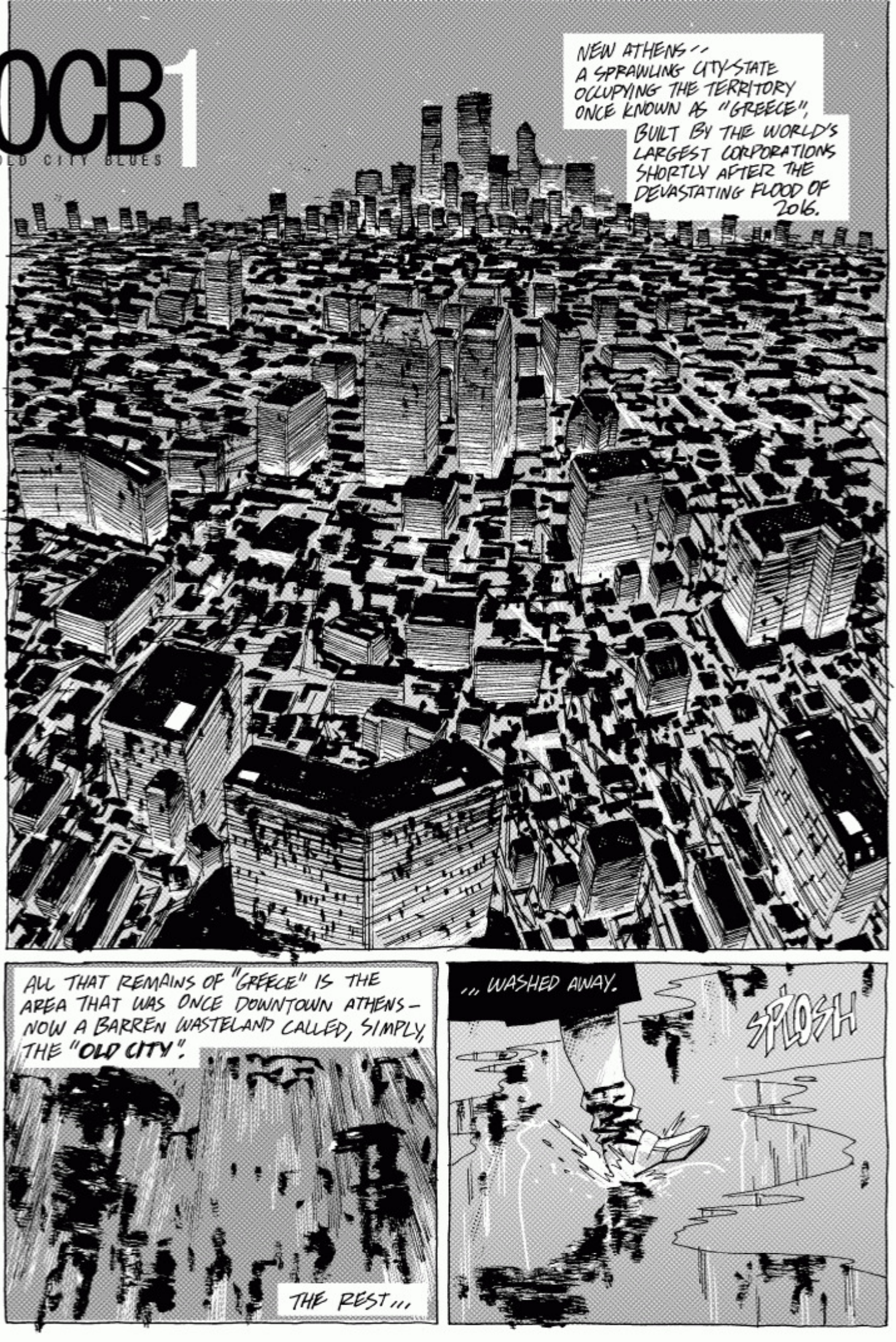
GIANNIS MILONOGIANNIS
"THE HAYASHI FILE"

OCB 1

OLD CITY BLUES



...
SHIT.
THIS IS THE THIRD MURDERED CYBORG IN THE LAST 40-SOMETHING HOURS... I NEED A CUP'A--
--SOLANO!
HEY, DOC. WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?
SAME AS THE OTHER TWO, JUST AS WE EXPECTED. ALSO, THE CUTS ARE IDENTICAL ON ALL THREE VICTIMS--I'D SAY WE'RE MOST LIKELY DEALING WITH A ROBOT, HERE...
EITHER A ROBOT OR A MASTER SWORDSMAN BUT, HELL, THERE ARE PROBABLY ONLY TWO OR THREE LEFT--
"--AND IF ANY OF THEM WERE IN NEW ATHENS, WE WOULDVE BEEN INFORMED!"
SEEEE

SOLANO, WHERE ARE YOU?
ON MY WAY TO GRAB SOME COFFEE BEFORE HEADING BACK TO HQ, CHIEF.
VMMM
PICK ME UP FROM THE PM'S OFFICE ON YOUR WAY THERE...
...THE MEETING'S OVER.
WHAT DID THEY SAY?
SHHH
VMMM
WELL, THEY'RE NOT HAPPY.
CAN'T SAY I BLAME 'EM...
HEY, SOLANO? GET ME A CUP OF COFFEE TOO...
...MAKE IT A REAL STRONG ONE.
RMM

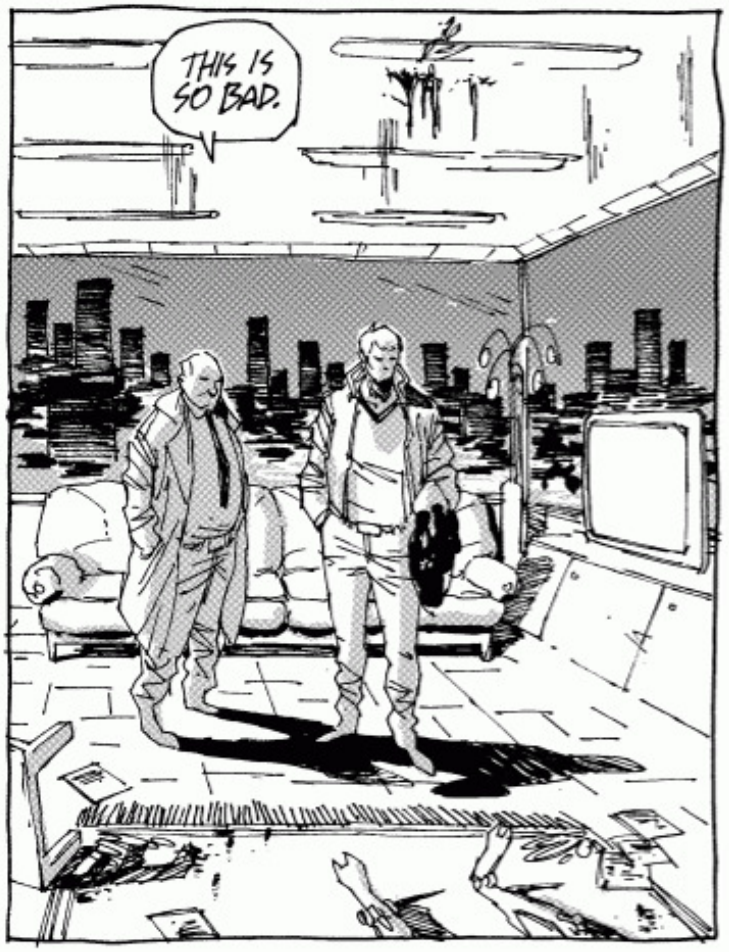
THEY DON'T THINK THE MURDERS ARE RANDOM.
COFFEE, BOSS.
THEY'RE AFRAID SOMEONE UP HIGH, SOMEONE IMPORTANT, IS GONNA GET HIT SOON.
"IMPORTANT"?
WHAT, SOME POLITICIANS LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER VICTIMS?
THEIR WORDS, SOLANO, NOT MINE.
LET'S GET GOING.

LOOK AT THIS PLACE...
THIS CITY'S BARELY 30 YEARS OLD AND IT'S ALREADY FALLING APART.
KRAWM
IF I WERE YOUNG LIKE YOU, I'D GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE. GO TO LUNA, THAT'S WHERE THE FUTURE'S AT.
JUMP SHIP, YOU MEAN?
EXACTLY! THIS SHIP IS SINKING, AND IT'S ONLY GONNA DRAG YOU DOWN WITH IT, KID.
WHAM

HEY, CHIEF, LOOK ...
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE LET THE MOBILE GUNS LOOSE.
?
SHIT, THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ...
SKEET SKEET
YEAH, THIS IS THE CHIEF...
WHAT?

JESUS CHRIST... SO THAT'S WHY THE MOBILE GUNS ARE OUT... OK, WE'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY.
ANOTHER HIT, ALREADY?
YEAH, AND IT'S GETTING WORSE.
CHANGE OF PLANS. HEAD TO HOTEL ARKADIA.
FAST.
MY PLEASURE.
KRAWWM

WEEOO


THIS IS SO BAD.

THE HAYASHI, OF HAYASHI CORPORATION, MURDERED ON OUR WATCH...

YOU THINK THIS IS THE BIG HIT OUR KILLER WAS WORKING TOWARDS?
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, FOR OUR SAKE.

THIS IS BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS...

CHIEF! HOLO-CALL FOR YOU--IT'S A HAYASHI REP.
PUT IT THROUGH.
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN.
ZFFT
ZFFT
MY NAME IS MARIKO ZAWA, IN CHARGE OF HANDLING SUCH... DELICATE MATTERS, HERE AT HAYASHI.
I'M CHIEF GORTYN OF THE SDX, AND THIS IS SOLANO, WORKING ON THE CASE.
HEY.
I UNDERSTAND YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO SHARE ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT HAVE REGARDING THE DEATH OF MR. HAYASHI.
HOWEVER, I'M AFRAID I MUST DISAPPOINT YOU.
MR. HAYASHI WAS BRIEFLY VISITING NEW ATHENS IN ORDER TO INSPECT A NEW ROBOTICS FACILITY THERE.
HE WOULD BE DEPARTING TOMORROW TO RETURN TO HONG KONG.
THAT IS ALL.

UH,,,
DID MR. HAYASHI HAVE ANY ENEMIES YOU KNOW OF?
ANY RECENT THREATS TO HIS LIFE?
OF COURSE MR. HAYASHI HAD ENEMIES. QUITE A FEW, I SHOULD THINK.
BUT, IF WE KNEW WHO EXACTLY THEY WERE, I WOULDN'T BE WASTING MY TIME TALKING WITH YOU.
GENTLEMEN, WE REALIZE YOU FEEL IN DEBT TO THE HAYASHI GROUP FOR ALL IT HAS PROVIDED TO YOUR COUNTRY SINCE THE FLOOD.
WE UNDERSTAND YOUR NEED TO DELIVER JUSTICE.
HOWEVER, THINGS ARE ALREADY MOVING FORWARD AT HAYASHI. WE HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR AN INCIDENT OF THIS KIND.
WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN PURSUING THIS CASE ANY FURTHER.
GOODNIGHT.
SHAK
...

DID THAT MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU, CHIEF?
WELL...
IT DID, IN A WAY.
PUFF
THESE CORPORATE TYPES ARE A RUTHLESS BUNCH...
THEY'D DO ANYTHING TO AVOID HAVING THE AUTHORITIES INVOLVED.
YEAH, BUT, SHOVING US AROUND LIKE THAT--
FORGET ABOUT IT, KID. THEY KNOW HOW LITTLE OUR POWER OVER THEM IS.
I NEED YOU TO GET OVER TO HQ AND START GETTING AN INVESTIGATION TEAM TOGETHER.
I'LL STAY AND TRY TO SORT THIS MESS OUT.
AND HOPE IT DOESN'T GET WORSE.

KRAWWW
CAW
CAW
CAW
KEE
EET

ANSWER CALL.
SOLANO! WE JUST GOT A REPORT FROM THE OLD CITY BARRICADE! A ROBOT MANAGED TO GET INTO THE OLD CITY...
...CUTTING UP TWO GUARDS IN THE PROCESS!
THIS IS OUR GUY, SOLANO! IF HE MANAGES TO GET DEEP ENOUGH INTO THE WASTELAND WE'LL LOSE TRACK OF HIM FOR GOOD!
GET OVER THERE NOW, AND DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
WWWM

SOLANO! OVER HERE!

THIS IS WHERE HE GOT IN! I'LL BACK YOU UP--

NO! KEEP TO YOUR POST AND TRY DOING YOUR FUCKING JOB NEXT TIME!

HUFF HUFF
JESUS...

CLANG
UP THERE ...?

SWISH

WSHSHHTHUD
BANG
BANG
BANG

WHAT THE HELL THE "HAYASHI LOGO!
日ボット
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? HAYASHI KILLED BY ONE OF HIS OWN ROBOTS?
DEET

?
DEET DEET
AW, MAN...
KA-BOOM
THUD

YOU'RE A LUCKY GUY, SOLANO... SURVIVING A TUMBLE LIKE THAT...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, CHIEF? ABOUT THE KILLER BEING A HAYASHI ROBOT?
CAREFUL, SOLANO.
ANY EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THAT THEORY WAS DESTROYED WHEN THE ROBOT BLEW ITSELF UP IN THE OLD CITY. IT'S YOUR WORD AGAINST HAYASHI CORPORATIONS!
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE.
YEAH, SURE, CHIEF. BUT, YOU BELIEVE ME, RIGHT? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE HAYASHI WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE.
IT WOULD EXPLAIN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS US, TOO.
IT'S THE ONLY SCENARIO THAT MAKES ANY SENSE.
BUT WITH NOTHING TO BACK THIS UP, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO LET IT GO, FOR NOW.
JUST REST UP, KID. YOU EARNED IT.
GIANNIS 2010

ISSUE 1 – END

OCB2
OLD CITY BLUES
SHHHHHH PIT PAT
HQ TO B-2.
B-2 IN POSITION.
BORED.
SIP

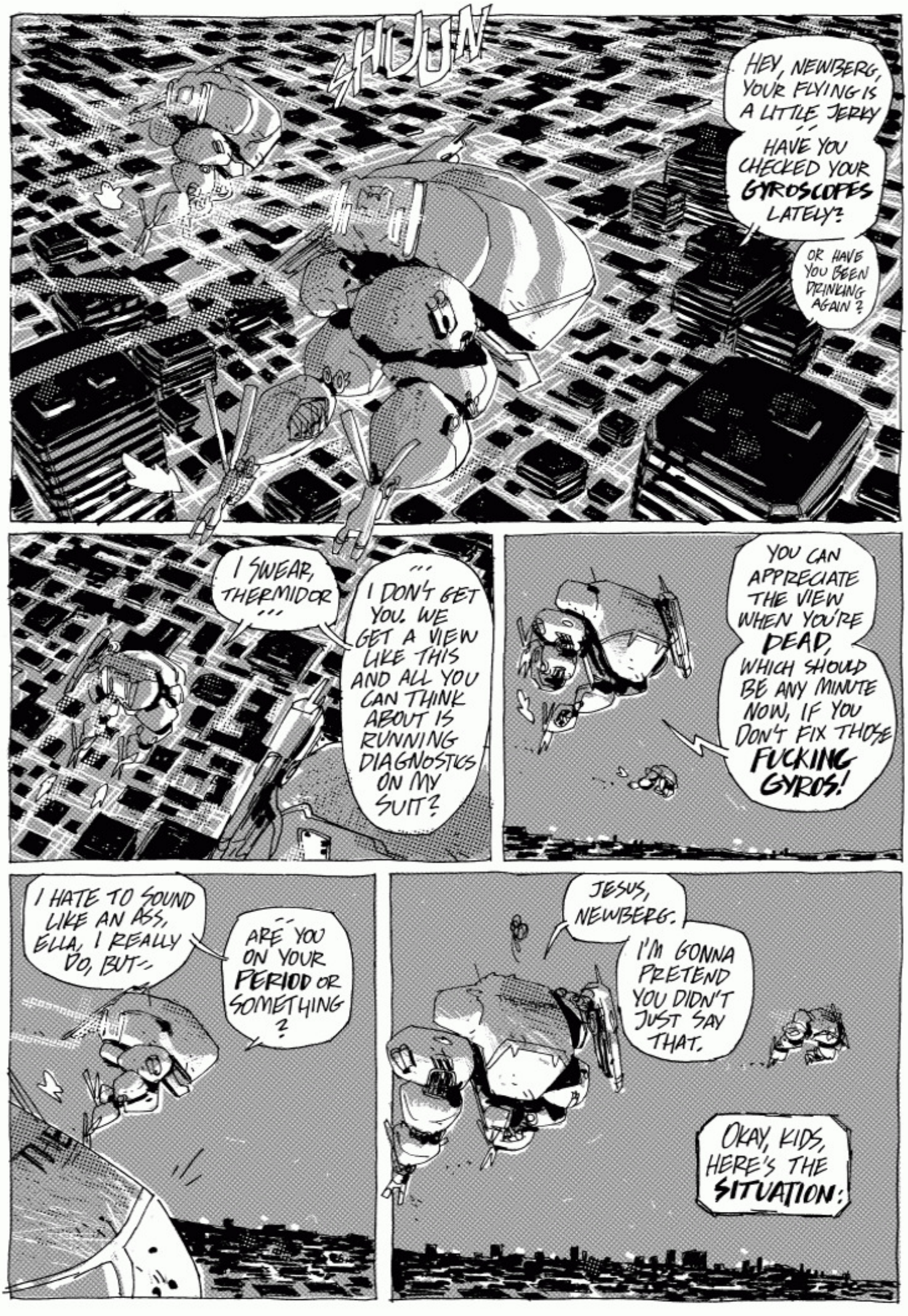
WELL, I'VE GOT SOME NEWS FOR YOU:
BOSS JUST GOT OUT OF THE MEETING AND --GET THIS--
WE'RE MERGING WITH THE MOBILE GUNS.
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.
I WISH I WAS, MAN.
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S GONNA BE SOME MAJOR BUDGET CUTS COMING UP SOON.
I SUSPECT THE MERGER WAS THE ONLY WAY FOR OUR DIVISION TO SURVIVE, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE HAYASHI THING ...
I DON'T GET IT -- THE HAYASHI COPRORATION GET'S CAUGHT RED-HANDED KILLING THEIR PRESIDENT AND NOTHING HAPPENS?
IT SUCKS, I KNOW.
BUT HAYASHI PRACTICALLY REBUILT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY AFTER THE FLOOD -- THEY'RE UNTOUCHABLE.
DEET DEET

DEET DEET DEET
WHAT THE--
HQ! THE VIP'S ON THE MOVE!
CHCHAW KAWW
SKREEEEOH
GAWGAGAWN
HQ, GET ME THE CHIEF!
OUR VIP IS DRIVING LIKE A MANIAC IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY!
YEAH, SO ARE YOU!

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS SHIT, NEWBERG?
BABYSITTING THE IDIOTS FROM THE SDX LIKE WE'RE SOME KIND OF --
ELLA! PIPE DOWN, WILL YOU?
THIS IS HARDLY PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR.
AND REMEMBER WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE BUDGET -- IF THEY HEAR YOU TALKING LIKE THAT, YOU'LL GET THE AXE.
YO! NEWBERG! THERMIDOR!
?

GEAR UP, PEOPLE! THERE'S A SITUATION DOWNTOWN!
WHAT, NO BRIEFING?
NO TIME FOR THAT! WE'LL BE FILLED IN ON THE WAY DOWN.
OH, AND-- WE'RE NOT USING THE BUS LANES TONIGHT.
WE'VE GOT PERMISSION TO FLY ANTI-GRAV FOR THIS ONE.

RMMM
TALK TO ME, SOLANO.
BAMM
MMMM
CHIEF! I'VE GOT THE CAR RIGHT AHEAD OF ME.
NO ANSWER TO MY CALLS AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING ON AUTO-PILOT.
ALSO, BOSS, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE THIS, BUT--
--THE VIP'S CAR JUST TOTALLY DISAPPEARED FROM MY GPS.
POOF!


SHUN
HEY, NEWBERG, YOUR FLYING IS A LITTLE JERKY
HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR GYROSCOPES LATELY?
OR HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING AGAIN?
I SWEAR, THERMIDOR...
I DON'T GET YOU. WE GET A VIEW LIKE THIS AND ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IS RUNNING DIAGNOSTICS ON MY SUIT?
YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE VIEW WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, WHICH SHOULD BE ANY MINUTE NOW, IF YOU DON'T FIX THOSE FUCKING GYROS!
I HATE TO SOUND LIKE AN ASS, ELLA, I REALLY DO, BUT--
ARE YOU ON YOUR PERIOD OR SOMETHING?
JESUS, NEWBERG.
I'M GONNA PRETEND YOU DIDN'T JUST SAY THAT.
OKAY, KIDS, HERE'S THE SITUATION:

12 MINUTES AGO, A HEAVILY ARMORED CAR LEFT THE SHACKLETON EMBASSY.
THE PASSENGER IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEO-CONSERVATIVE PARTY FROM THE LUNAR COLONY.
WMMM
TWO MINUTES AGO, THE CAR WENT INTO STEALTH MODE. TOTALLY INVISIBLE TO OUR TRACKERS.
LUCKILY, IT'S NOT USING OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE AND THERE'S AN SDX DETECTIVE ON IT'S TAIL.
WE'RE USING HIS SIGNAL TO GET TO THE TARGET.
FOR NOW, WE'RE ASSUMING THE CAR'S BEEN HACKED FROM THE OUTSIDE.
OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO STOP THE CAR AND RETRIEVE THE VIP.
WE ALL KNOW ABOUT THE SITUATION WITH THE BUDGET AND THE LAY-OFFS, SO LET'S TRY AND LOOK SHARP TONIGHT AND MAYBE KEEP OUR JOBS!

HEAR THAT, ELLA? OUR FIRST NIGHT OUT WITH OUR NEW BUDDIES!
I'M TELLIN' YOU, NEWBERG, IF THIS SDX GUY SCREWS UP, I'M QUITTING THE FORCE!
OH, COME ON. NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING CHILDISH!
I'LL BET HE'S AS PROFESSIONAL AS WE ARE!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, NEWBERG...
THIS IS UNIT 03, BEGINNING DESCENT TO STREET LEVEL

SHHHH
WE'VE GOT VISUAL ON THE TARGET.
SKREEE
RMMM
NEEW
EMM
HUH?!

OUTTA THE WAY, SOX!
WOOSH
RMMM
'BOUT TIME YOU CLOWNS SHOWED UP.
RMM
GET THE BACK, NEWBERG. I'LL TAKE A PEEK INSIDE AND SEE WHAT THE DEAL IS.
K.
MMM
CLUNK
SNKK

OK, LET'S SEE IF I CAN CRACK THIS BABY!
VRRR

YOU GETTING ALL THIS, CHIEF?
THE NEO-CONSERVATIVES OF LUNA HAVE BEEN BRINGING FORTH SOME EXTREME PROPOSITIONS AND THEY'VE BEEN GETTING QUITE A FOLLOWING. IT DOESN'T SUPRISE ME THAT SOMEONE WOULD WANT THEM OUT OF THE PICTURE.
SO, DO WE GET RID OF THE CAR?
OUR GUYS ARE TRYING TO TRACE THE HACKER, SO TRY TO KEEP THE CAR IN ONE PIECE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
BY ALL MEANS, THOUGH, DO NOT LET IT REACH THE PARLIAMENT.
GOT IT.
VRAWM
VRAWM
MAP, GIVE ME A VIEW TEN BLOCKS AHEAD. THERE SHOULD BE A BRIDGE.
PROJECT IT, STEREO, SIDE-VIEW.
DE
LISTEN UP, ROBOPHILES! THERE'S A BRIDGE UP AHEAD. WE KEEP THE CAR GOING TO BUY OUR TECH GUYS SOME TIME BUT...
WE DUMP THE CAR OVER THE BRIDGE, EVEN IF OUR GUYS DON'T GET A HIT.

HEY, THAT ACTUALLY SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN! MAYBE YOU'RE NOT SO BAD, AFTER ALL!
WHOOOSH
WHOOOSH!
KAM
OH, REALLY? WELL, IF YOU ASK ME -- HEY, WHOA!
DEET
LISTEN! MY CAR'S BEEN HACKED, TOO! I NEED ONE OF YOU TO
MMM

ELLA! THE BRIDGE!
I'VE GOT THE VIP, YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS GUY!
BRACE YOURSELF, SDX!
SHHH
SHEEE
THUD
JESUS CHRIST!
C'MON! CLIMB UP, QUICK!
SHHN

I'M DROPPING YOU OFF HERE!
THERMIDOR
!
WOOSH

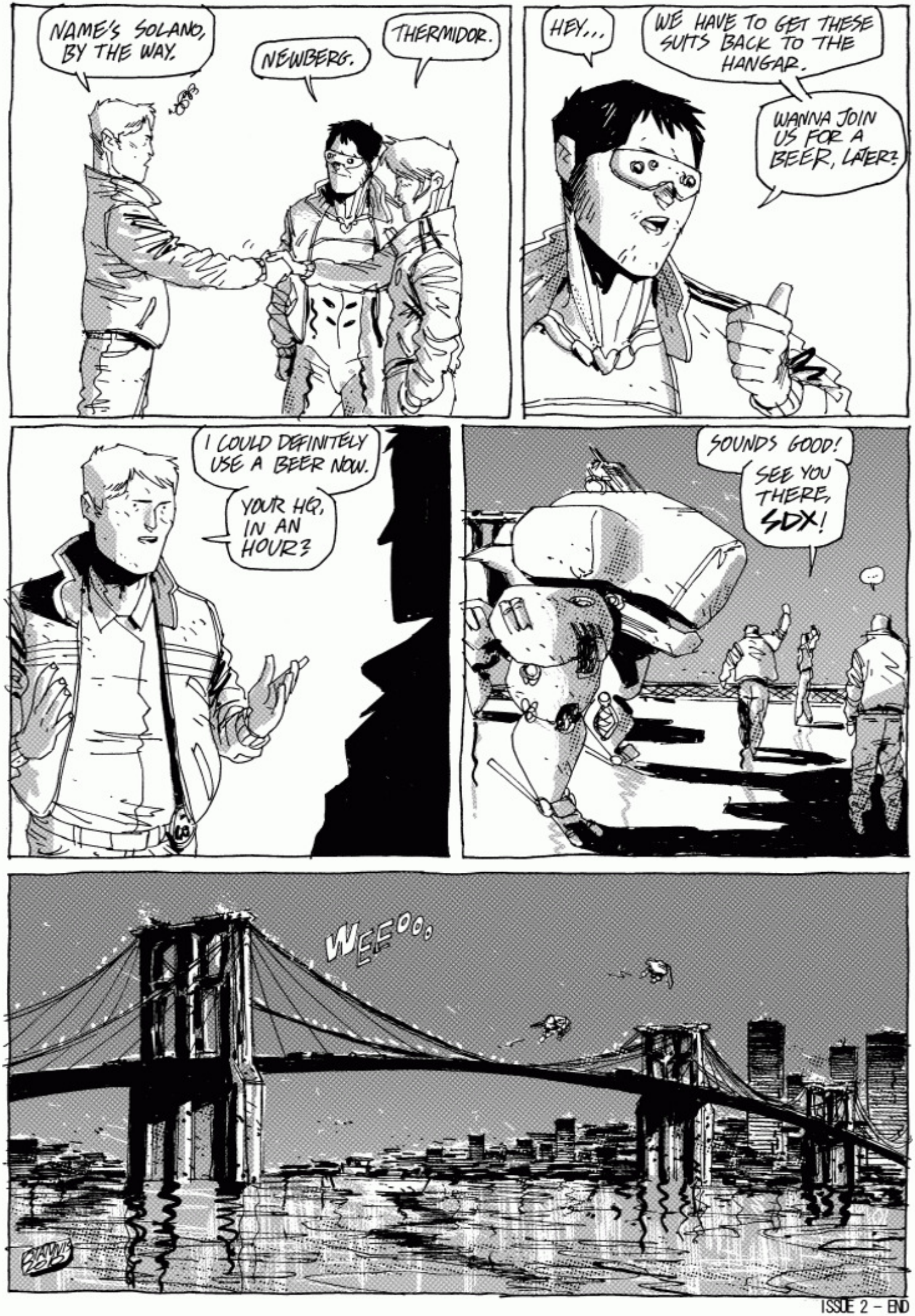
RRMM
THUNK
CRASH!

SPLAT
THAT SETTLES IT, I GUESS...

WEEoo
SO, WHAT NOW, CHIEF?
THE BOMB SQUAD IS GONNA DIVE IN AND DEFUSE THE CAR, RETRIEVE THE BODY... NOT OUR PROBLEM, REALLY.
BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY ...
... WE GOT A HIT ON THE HACKERS SIGNAL. THEY TRACED IT BACK TO THE OLD CITY.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING EVEN THERE!
EXACTLY. NOW, GET THIS: OUR DEAD VIP WAS SPEARHEADING A MOVEMENT TO PASS A LAW FORBIDDING TERRAN COMPANIES FROM ENTERING THE LUNAR COLONY'S MARKET.
THAT'S ABSURD! TERRAN COMPANIES BUILT THE COLONY!

YEAH-- NOW, GUESS WHICH TERRAN COMPANY HAS BEEN WORKING ON LUNAR-TYPE MECH PROTOTYPES.
THE HAYASHI CORPORATION?
THERE YOU GO.
...
STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY THEY WHACKED THEIR PRESIDENT, THOUGH...
I CAN'T FIGURE THAT ONE OUT EITHER ...
MAYBE SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE JUST DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY HE WAS RUNNING THINGS?
SO, DO YOU WANT ME TO LOOK INTO IT?
OFF THE RECORD, FOR NOW. JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.
I HAVE TO SPEAK TO THE MOBILE GUN LIEUTENANT. WHY DON'T YOU GO AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO THE GUYS THAT SAVED YOUR ASS?
BE NICE.

SHHHH...
WHAT A NIGHT, HUH?
PRETTY INTENSE, YEAH.
YOU OK?
I'VE HAD WORSE.
I, UH, WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME OUT, BACK THERE.
NO PROBLEM, SDX. JUST MAKE SURE WE LOOK REAL GOOD ON YOUR REPORT.
HEH HEH


NAME'S SOLANO, BY THE WAY.
NEWBERG.
THERMIDOR.
HEY...
WE HAVE TO GET THESE SUITS BACK TO THE HANGAR.
WANNA JOIN US FOR A BEER, LATER?
I COULD DEFINITELY USE A BEER NOW.
YOUR HQ, IN AN HOUR?
SOUNDS GOOD!
SEE YOU THERE, SDX!
...
WEEOOO

SKEET
SKEET
SKEET
SKEET
OCB3
OLD CITY BLUES
UGH...
ANSWER CALL.
DEET!
TSK--STILL IN BED, SOLANO?
C'MON, GET UP. I'M HEADING DOWNTOWN AND THE CHIEF WANTS YOU WITH ME.

OR...
I COULD JUST HANG UP AND GO BACK TO SLEEP THERMIDOR.
YEAH, I KNOW IT'S YOUR DAY OFF, SOLANO. SOMETHING IMPORTANT CAME UP, THOUGH.
CAN'T SAY OVER THE PHONE, OBVIOUSLY, BUT THE CHIEF INSISTED THAT YOU COME ALONG.
SO GET YOUR ASS OUTTA BED, WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY TO WASTE.

I DIDN'T REALIZE THIS WAS WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID "DOWNTOWN..."
WHAT ARE WE DOING DOWN IN THIS SHITHOLE, ANYWAY?
MEETING SOMEONE.

A FRIEND OF YOURS? I SHOULD'VE GUESSED THIS IS WHERE YOU'D HANG OUT...
NO, SOLANO. WE'RE MEETING AN INFORMANT -- A HACKER, ACTUALLY.
SOME KID THAT GOT CAUGHT SNOOPING AROUND ON GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS. NOW HE WANTS TO CUT A DEAL -- SAYS HE'S GOT SOME INFO ON HAYASHI CORP. WE'D APPRECIATE.
SO, HOW DO WE FIND HIM?
WE DON'T. HE SAID HE'LL CONTACT US IN THIS AREA.
SO WE'RE JUST WANDERING AROUND AIMLESSLY.
OH, DON'T BE A BABY, SOLANO.

THE MASTER SAID:
?
"KNOWLEDGE IS RECOGNIZING WHAT YOU KNOW AND WHAT YOU DON'T."
MIGHT I INTEREST YOU IN A BOOK OF THE MASTERS SAYINGS?
THANKS, BUD-- ALREADY GOT 'EM.
HOW 'BOUT SOME HOT INFO ON HAYASHI, THEN?

SO, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAYASHI?
CRAZY POWERFUL JAPANESE TECH CORPORATION.
ONE OF THE COMPANIES THAT REBUILT THIS COUNTRY AFTER THE FLOOD.
CHAFF
IT'S FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT WAS RECENTLY MURDERED.
CUT THE CRAP, KID. TELL US SOMETHING WE CAN'T FIND ON WIKIPEDIA.
THAT'LL DEPEND ON WHAT YOU'RE OFFERING IN RETURN.
PUFF
HOW 'BOUT IF WE TAKE YOU IN FOR ACCESSING A RESTRICTED SYSTEM?
HAHA, OH GOD. YOU MUST THINK I'M A TOTAL AMATEUR!
WHY'D YOU THINK I BROUGHT YOU HERE? YOU'RE ON MY TURF, PAL.
MY PEOPLE ARE WATCHING US AS WE SPEAK.

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST YOU WERE DROPPED?
AH! NOW WE'RE TALKING!
FUG
SO, AS I WAS POKING AROUND HAYASHI CORPORATION'S NETWORK, I CAME ACROSS A REPORT ABOUT THREE LUNAR MECH PROTOTYPES BEING SENT BACK FROM LUNA, WHERE THEY WERE BEING TESTED.
THESE MACHINES ARE PROGRAMMED ON LUNA BY AN AI DESIGN FIRM, BEST AT WHAT THEY DO.
HERE'S THE INTERESTING PART:
ALL THE FILES CONCERNING THESE RECALLED MECHS, THE FILES ON THIS AI FIRM AND THE FILES ON HAYASHI HIMSELF, LINK BACK TO SOME HIDDEN FILE I COULDN'T ACCESS.
WHAT KIND OF FILE CAN YOU NOT ACCESS?

A FILE THAT ISN'T ON THE NET...
OR, A FILE THAT ISN'T EVEN DIGITAL TO BEGIN WITH.
THINK ABOUT IT: IN A WORLD AS HIGH-TECH AS OURS, THE OLDER A SYSTEM IS, THE HARDER IT BECOMES TO ACCESS IT'S FILES.
SKRATCH
SKRATCH
SO, HERE'S WHAT I THINK:
THE FILE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS PROBABLY LOCKED AWAY SOMEWHERE IN THE HAYASHI FACTORY.
IT'LL BE PROTECTED BY DIGITAL SYSTEMS, SURE.
BUT THE FILE ITSELF?
GOOD OLD INK ON PAPER.

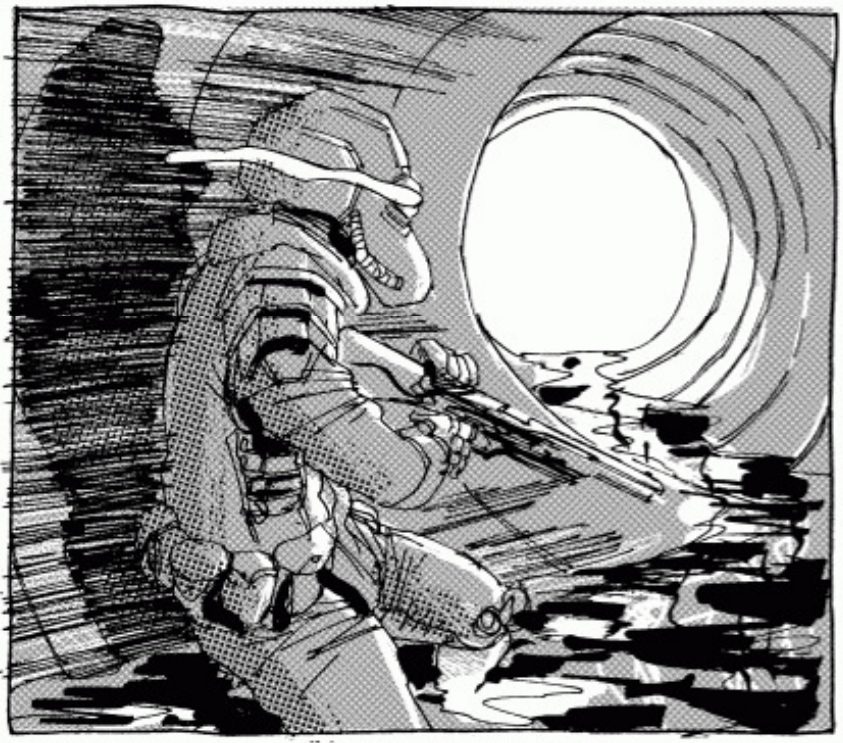
A SECRET FILE...?
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, CHIEF.
TAP
TAP
RMMM
THIS COULD BE THE KEY TO FIGURING OUT WHAT THE HELL THE HAYASHI CORPORATION IS UP TO ...
WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK INTO THE HAYASHI FACTORY TO GET IT, THOUGH.
YES, AND THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE.
WE MAKE OUR MOVE TONIGHT.

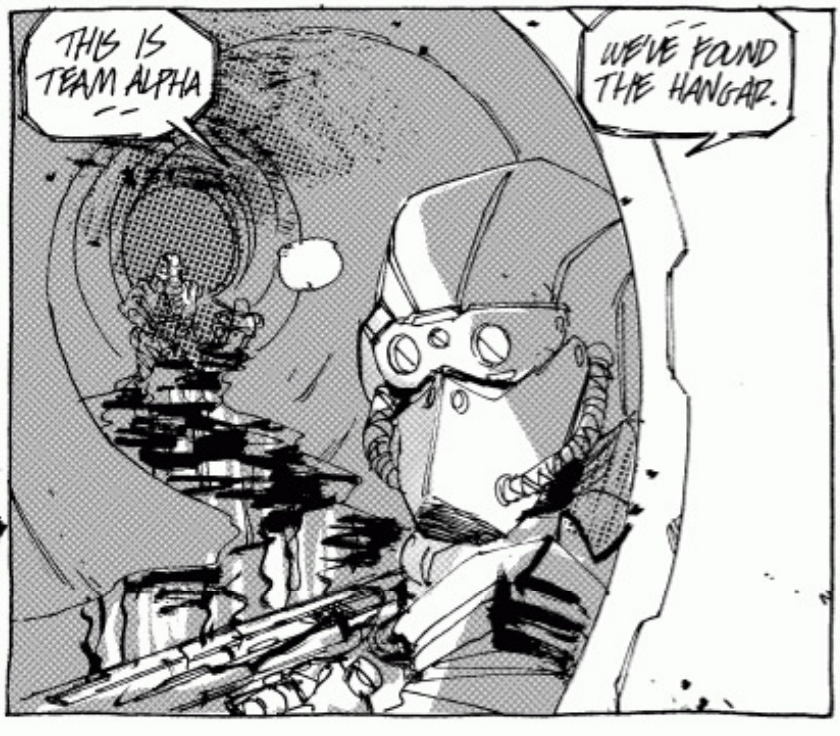
WE'RE IN POSITION, CHIEF.

GOOD. HOW DOES THE AREA LOOK, SOLANO?
LOOKS DESERTED, CHIEF.
THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD LOOK. THE FACTORY IS FULLY AUTOMATED SO YOU SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING INTO ANY GUARDS THERE.
YOU STILL NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR ALARMS, MAYBE EVEN SECURITY DRONES.
SOLANO, I WANT YOUR TEAM TO LOOK FOR THE LUNAR MECHS HAYASHI RECALLED RECENTLY.
THERMIDOR, YOUR TEAM'S LOOKING FOR THIS FILE, WHATEVER IT IS.
ROGER. MOVING IN.
SHHFF
TAP
TAP
DON
DON

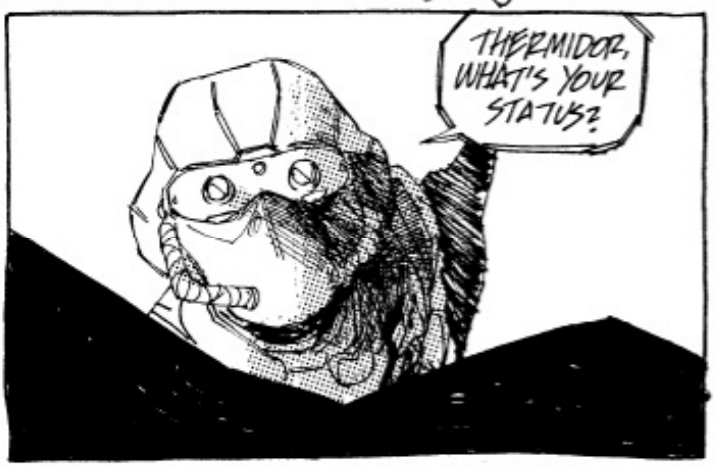
SHHHH
SKUSH
SPLOSH

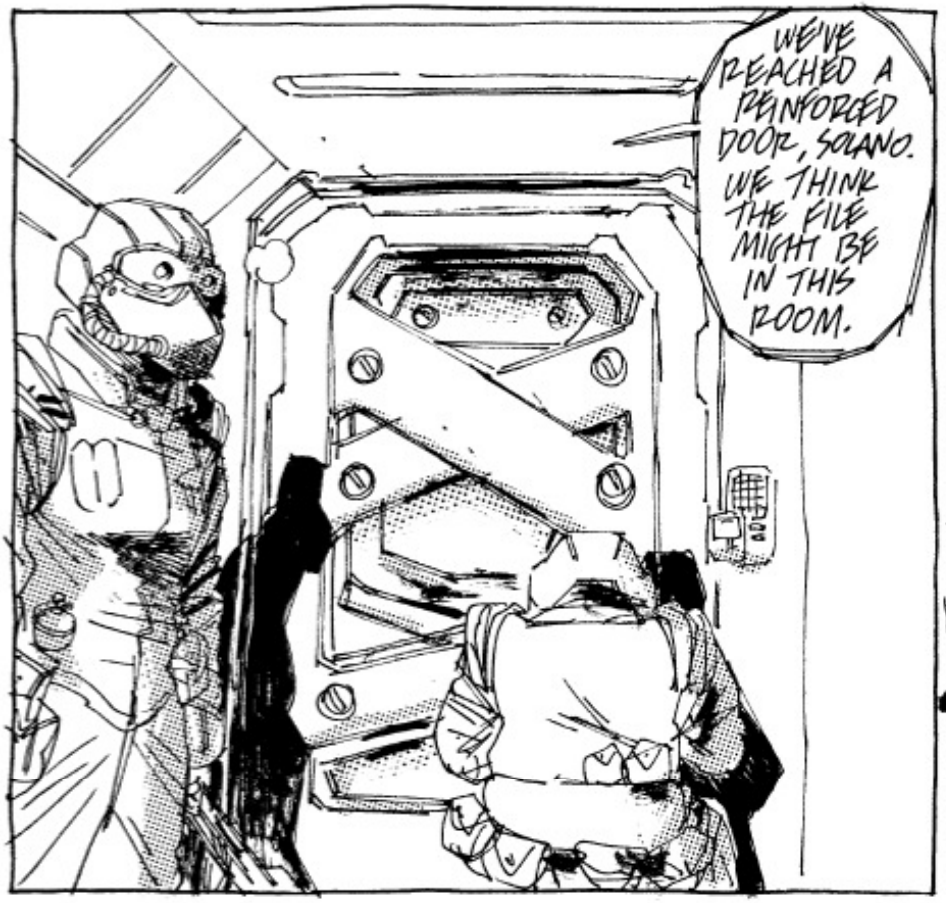
SLUSH
SPLOSH




THIS IS TEAM ALPHA
WE'VE FOUND THE HANGAR.

THERE'S ONLY ONE MECH HERE, CHIEF
...
AND THIS THING'S A MONSTER!


THERMIDOR, WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?


WE'VE REACHED A REINFORCED DOOR, SOLANO. WE THINK THE FILE MIGHT BE IN THIS ROOM.

NEWBERG'S CRACKING IT RIGHT NOW.

BEEP!
SHIT!
DRONES!
RA-TA-TA-TA

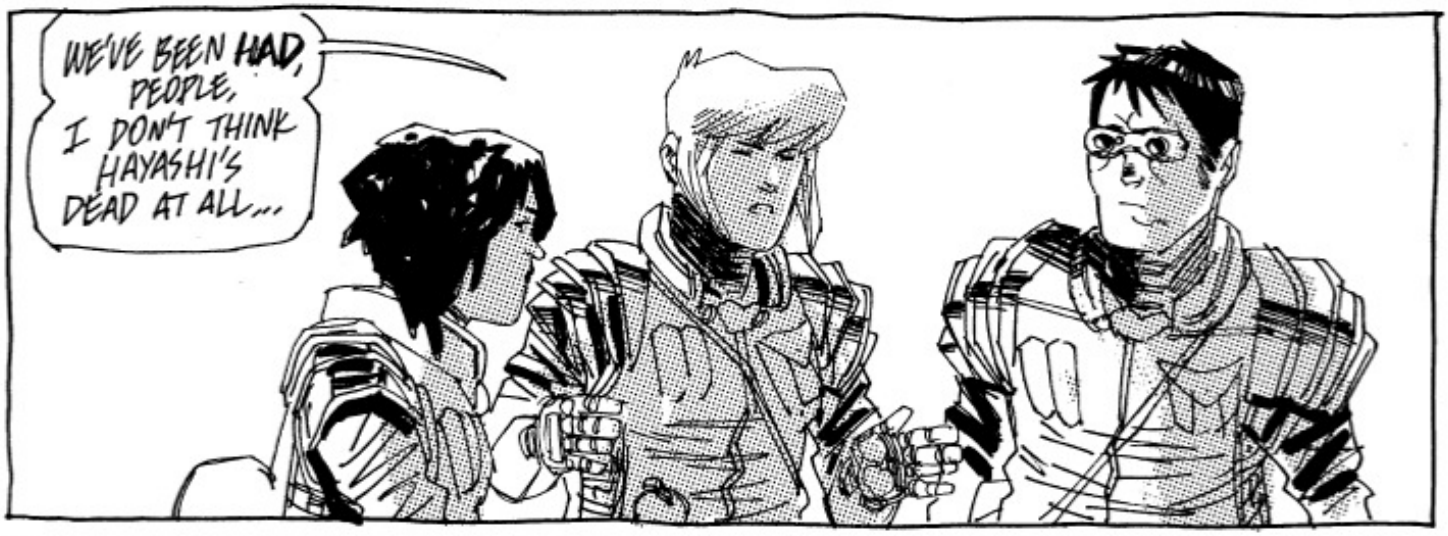
BBRAPAPA
BRRAKAKA
SHH
RATATATA
CLUNK

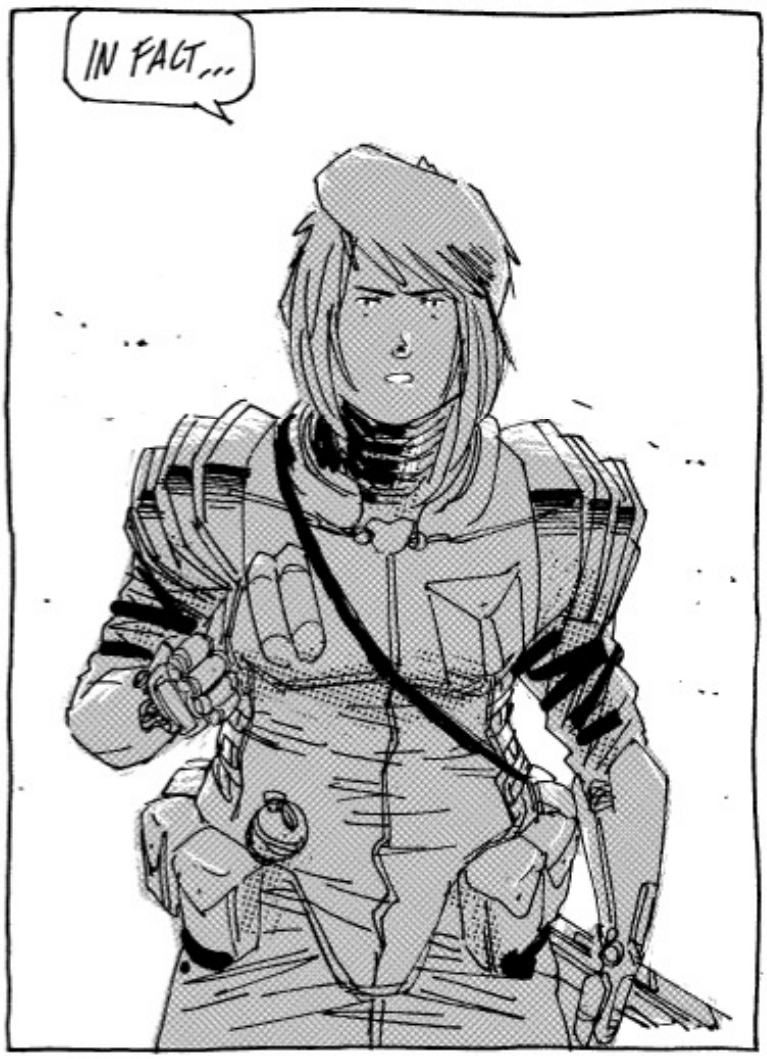
EVERYBODY OK?
WE'RE ALL GOOD, THERMIDOR. I'M HITTING THE LIGHTS.
LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND OUR FILE, CHIEF...
SHAAA

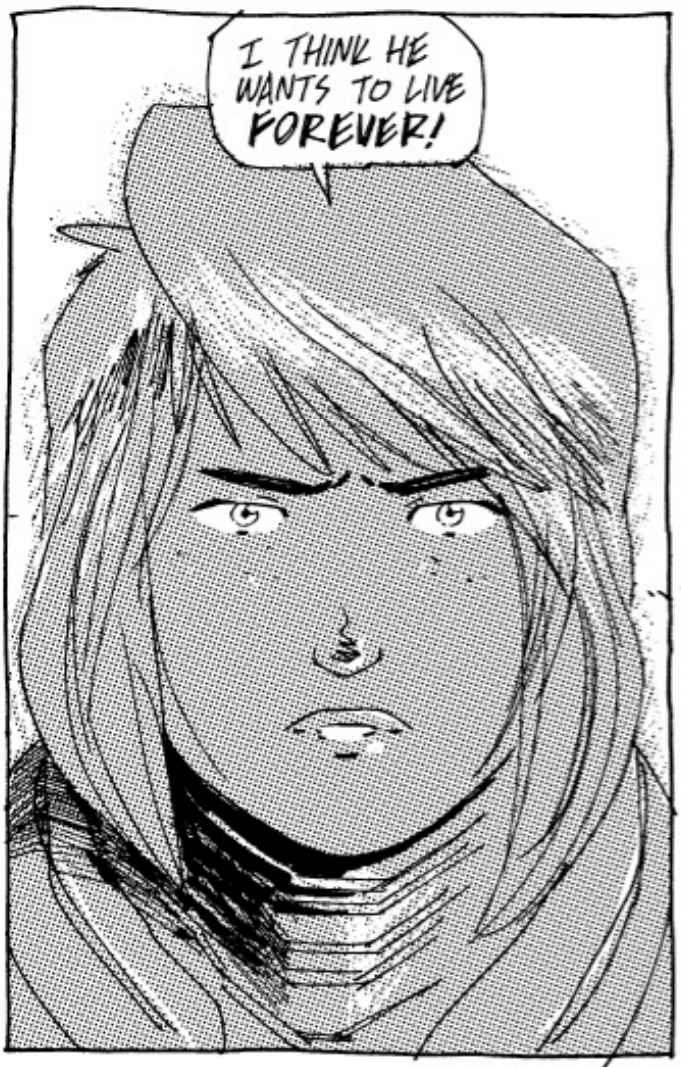
CLACK
SHHH
I-I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN SO MANY BOOKS IN ONE PLACE...
REAL PAPER... HARDCOVERS...
THESE MUST BE WORTH A FORTUNE...
THERMIDOR, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
ALL THESE BOOKS ARE ABOUT POSTHUMANISM, CONSCIOUSNESS UPLOADING, HUMAN AUGMENTATION...
THE DIGITAL HUMAN

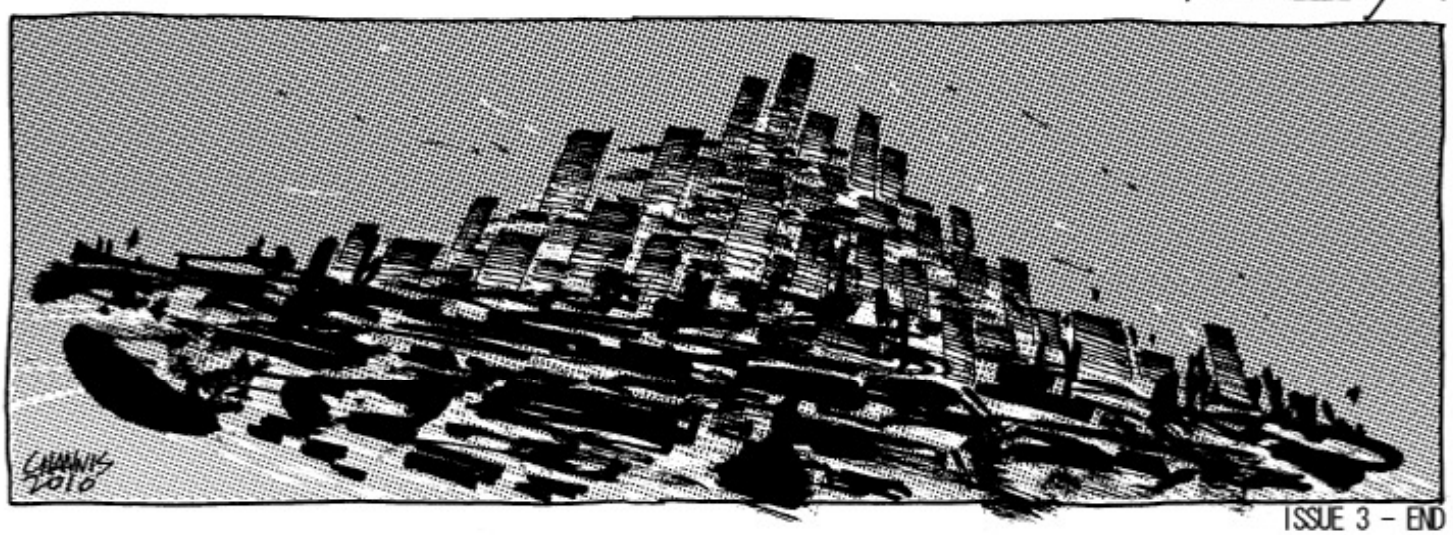
YEAH, I NOTICED. THIS ISN'T WHAT WE CAME FOR ...
HEY! OVER HERE. I FOUND SOMETHING!
CHECK THIS OUT-- THIS FILE IS ALL ABOUT HAYASHI HIMSELF ...
LOOK AT HIS MEDICAL RECORD!
BORN WITH SOME KIND OF BONE DISORDER ...
STARTED AUGMENTING HIS BODY AS A KID ...
... WENT FULL-CYBORG AT 18... JEEZ...
LOOKS LIKE HE WANTED TO GO EVEN FURTHER... EXPERIMENT WITH MIND UPLOADING AND AI...

BUT THE ROBOTICS REGULATION COMMITEE PUT A STOP TO HIS EXPERIMENTS...
DEEMED HIS GOALS DANGEROUS TO SOCIETY.
THAT'S WHEN HE QUIT PLAYING SCIENTIST AND PUT HIS CORPORATION TOGETHER...
GUYS! I HIT THE JACKPOT!
I FOUND THIS FILE ABOUT SOME SORT OF HAYASHI FACILITIES IN THE OLD CITY!
EXACT LOCATION AND EVERYTHING!
I'LL BET THAT'S WHERE THE MISSING MECHS ARE AT!
HOLY SHIT...
HAYASHI EXPERIMENTING WITH TRANSHUMANISM...
THE LUNAR AI FIRM...
THE OLD CITY...


WE'VE BEEN HAD, PEOPLE, I DON'T THINK HAYASHI'S DEAD AT ALL...


IN FACT...


I THINK HE WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER!


CHANNIS 2010

SHHHHH

OCB

OLD CITY BLUES

4

LISTEN UP, PEOPLE!
THE TECH GUYS HAVE CONFIRMED OUR SUSPICIONS: THIS HAYASHI FACILITY IN THE OLD CITY IS WHERE THE VIP'S CAR WAS HACKED FROM...
SO NOW WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT HAYASHI WAS BEHIND **THAT**, TOO...
EVERYBODY, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS MODEL. DON'T BOTHER MEMORIZING IT --
DEET
IT'S A COMPOSITE OF AERIAL PHOTOS, SO IT'S PROBABLY QUITE INACCURATE.

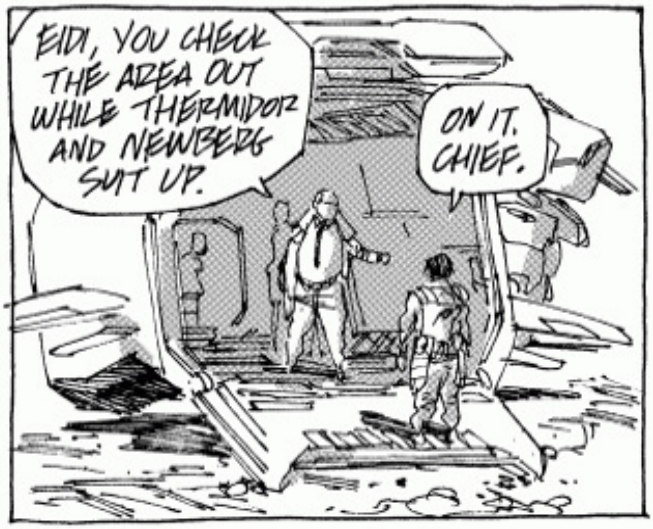
SOLANO, YOU'RE GONNA DROP OFF ON THIS ROOF. YOU'RE GOING TO USE A STEALTH SUIT AND FIND A WAY INTO THEIR ESTABLISHMENT. WE THINK THEY MIGHT BE USING THE OLD SUBWAY SYSTEM.
THERMIDOR, NEWBERG, YOU'RE GONNA USE THE MOBILE GUNS IN CASE THEY'VE GOT THOSE LUNAR MECHS FOR PROTECTION.
EIDI, YOU'LL TAKE THE REST OF OUR UNIT AND STORM THEIR FACILITY.
THEY'VE PROBABLY GOT MERCENARIES, TOO, SO WE NEED TO CREATE A DISTRACTION FOR SOLANO TO HAVE A CHANCE TO GET INSIDE.
AFTER WE DROP SOLANO OFF, WE'LL LAND NEARBY AND CHECK THE AREA OUT.

ALMOST THERE, CHIEF!
ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY SUIT UP!
KIND OF IRONIC, ISN'T IT?
WHAT IS?
GOING AFTER SOMEONE WHO AUGMENTED HIS BODY IN SUITS THAT BASICALLY AUGMENT OUR OWN BODIES?
WELL, ISN'T ALL CLOTHING MEANT TO AUGMENT OUR BODIES, IN A WAY?
THAT'S WHAT MAKES US HUMAN IN THE FIRST PLACE, ISN'T IT? THE ABILITY TO ADAPT AND MODIFY OUR SURROUNDINGS TO OUR NEEDS...
THAT, AND KNOWING WE HAVE TO DIE...
GUESS THAT MAKES HAYASHI AS HUMAN AS ANY OF US, THEN...

SOLANO! DROP OFF POINT!
WSSH
DEET
HERE WE GO...
BE CAREFUL, KID...
THAT SUIT'S REALLY EXPENSIVE!
THANKS A LOT, CHIEF...

HUSSHHH
KRHH
SHRTCH

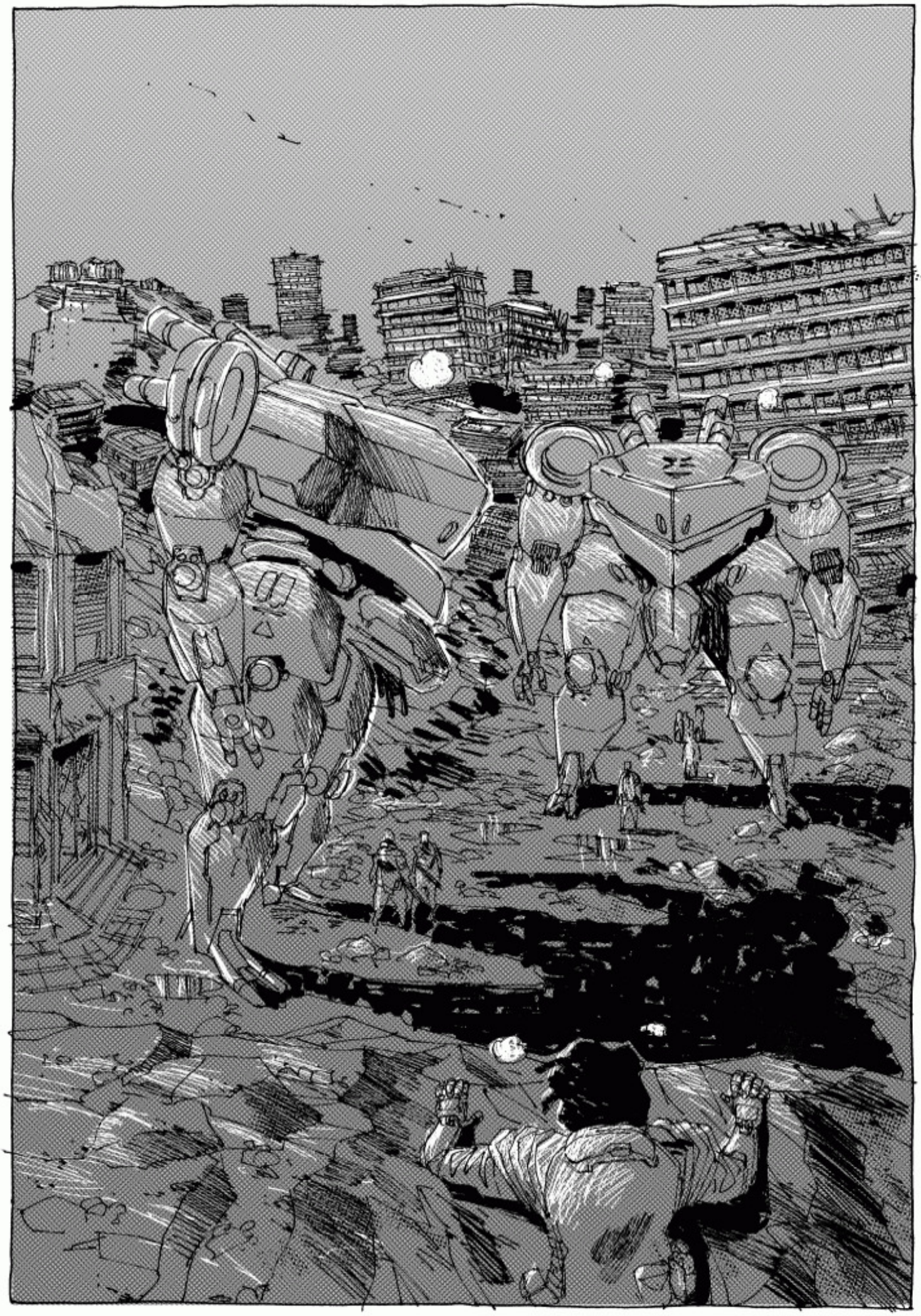
SHHH


EIDI, YOU CHECK THE AREA OUT WHILE THERMIDOR AND NEWBERG SUIT UP.
ON IT, CHIEF.

THE BASE SHOULD BE THIS WAY...

SHUFF
SKRUNCH

...



THERMIDOR! IT'S PRETTY BAD... BOTH OF THE MECHS LOOK FULLY OPERATIONAL ...
THEY'VE GOT SOME HIRED GUNS, TOO...
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM. YOU JUST KEEP THE MECHS BUSY.
NEWBERG, OUR MOBILE GUNS WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE MONSTERS IN A HEAD-ON FIGHT ...
YEAH, ONE BLOW FROM THOSE THINGS AND WE'RE DONE FOR...
OUR ONLY ADVANTAGE OVER THEM WILL BE OUR SPEED. THOSE BUILDINGS SHOULD PROVIDE SOME GOOD COVER, TOO...
DON'T WORRY, NEWBERG. IT WAS ABOUT TIME WE GOT TO USE THESE BABIES AGAINST A WORTHY ENEMY!
WSSHH
DON'T GET COCKY NOW, ELLA...

HEY ...
DID YOU HEAR--
WEEEUHHHH
IT'S THE COPS!!
THE COPS FOUND --
BOW!

SWISH
KOMMM
SMASH
DEET
DEET

BWMMM
GODAMN COPS! COME AN' GET ME IF YA GOT ANY--
-- BALLS.
KCHAK
DOMM
SWOSHHH
KAWAAAM

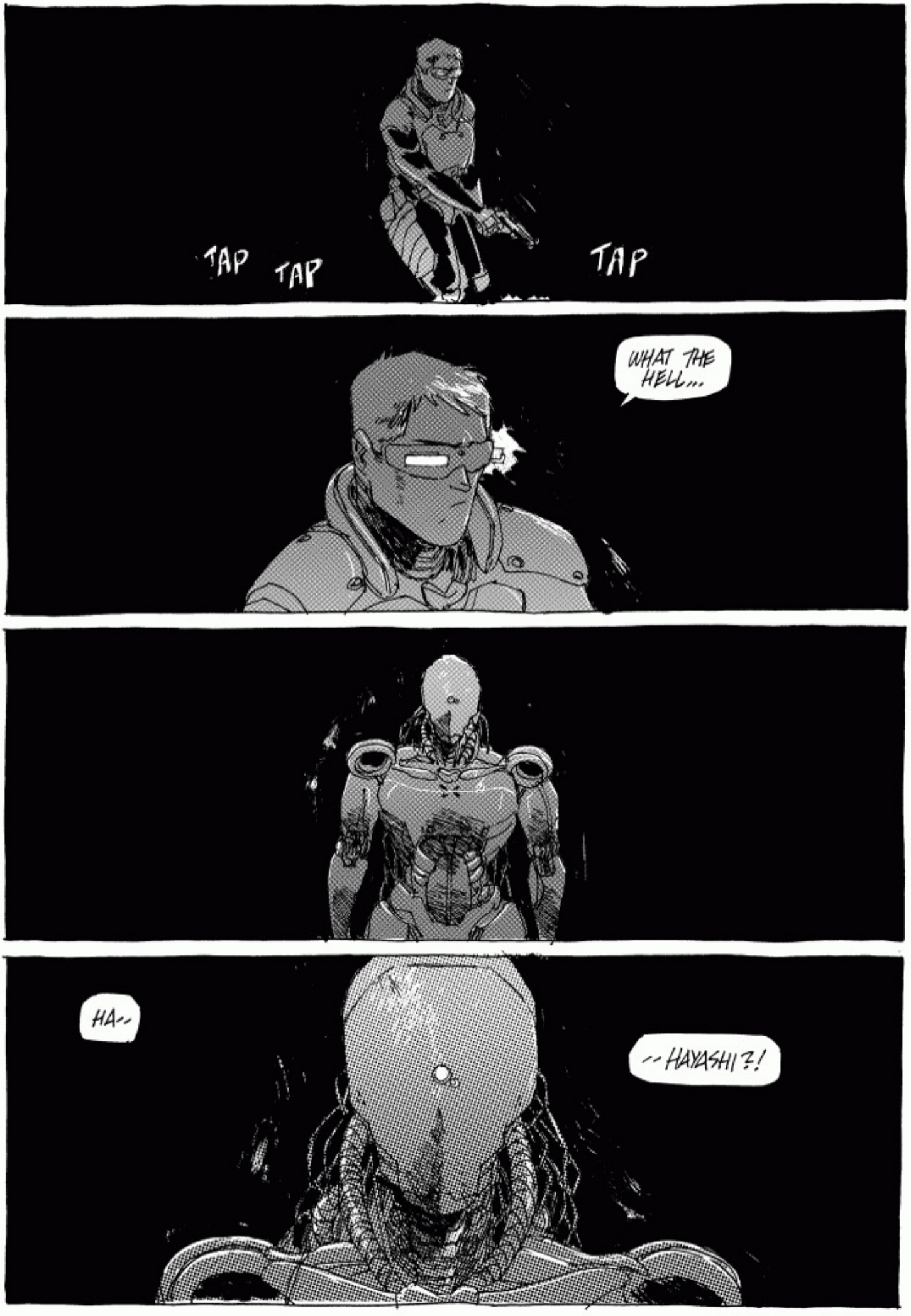
GUESS THAT'S MY CUE...
ZKKKSH
FZAK
FWSHHH
THUD

NOW, TO FIND HAYASHI...
ALL THE CABLES SEEM TO BE GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION...
I'LL START THERE...
!!
RUMBLE
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT UP THERE...

NEWBERG! OUR GUNS AREN'T PUTTING A DENT IN THESE THINGS!
SKREE
I'VE GOT AN IDEA! YOU NOTICE HOW THEY HAVE TROUBLE STOPPING, WHEN THEY MOVE?
THEY KEEP SMASHING INTO BUILDINGS!
NO SHIT, THERMIDOR!
SMASH
YEAH, LIKE THE EARTH'S GRAVITY IS TOO MUCH FOR THEM TO HANDLE!
EXACTLY.

DMMM
DMMM
KSHAK

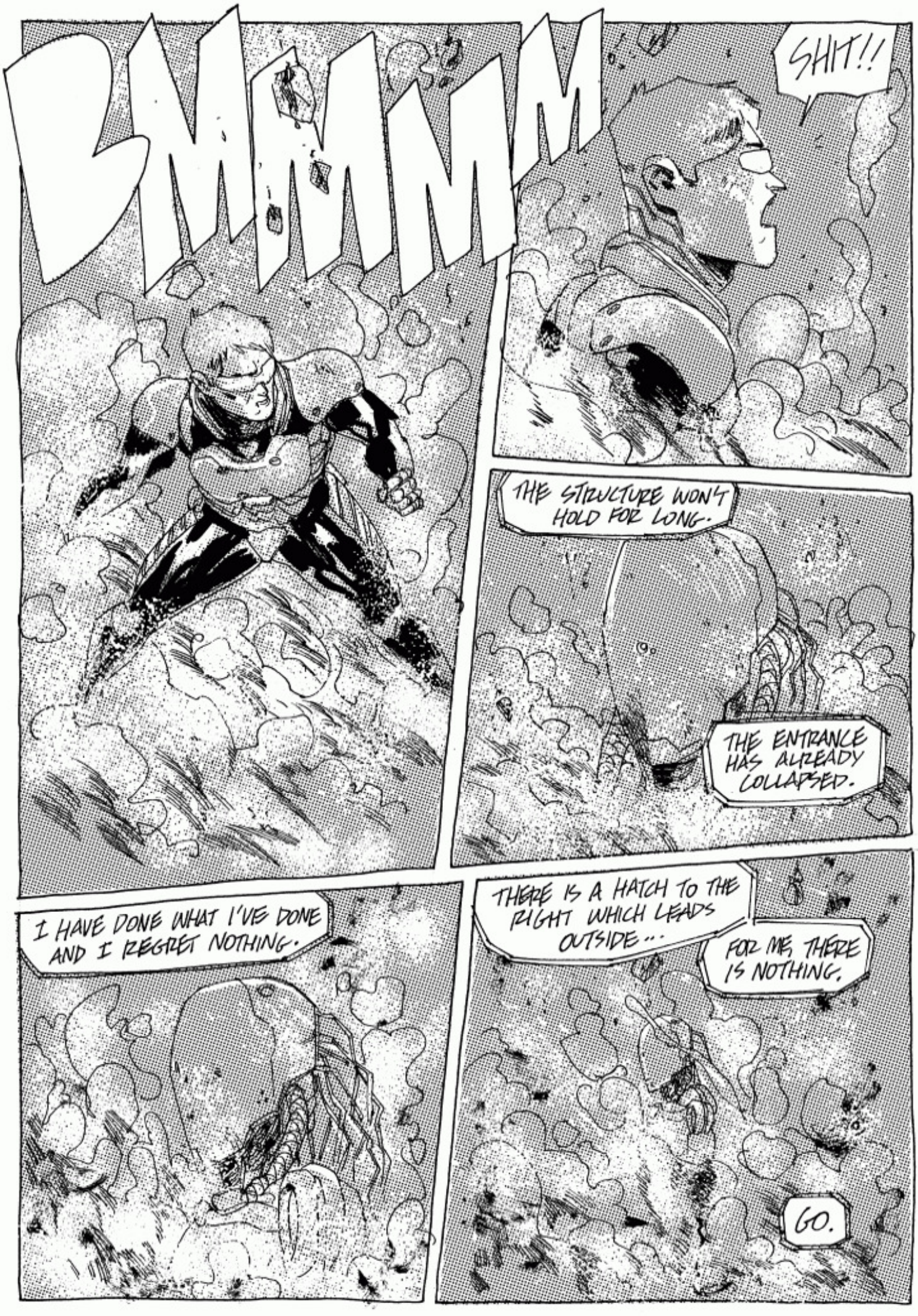
VM SKEEEBMM
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS, THERMIDOR!
SHUT UP, NEWBERG! JUST KEEP CIRCLING AROUND THEM!
YOU CRAZY BASTARDS...


TAP TAP
TAP
WHAT THE HELL...
HA--
--HAYASHI?!

NOT QUITE...
NOT ANYMORE ...
THAT BODY IS JUST AN EMPTY SHELL, NOW...
SO YOU'RE ...
I'M CAUGHT... IN BETWEEN...
NOT HOW IT WAS MEANT TO BE ...
IT'S OVER, HAYASHI!
YOU HAD PEOPLE KILLED FOR NOTHING!
FOR NOTHING?
YOU DON'T KNOW ...
... HOW IT IS...
... TO LIVE MY LIFE ...

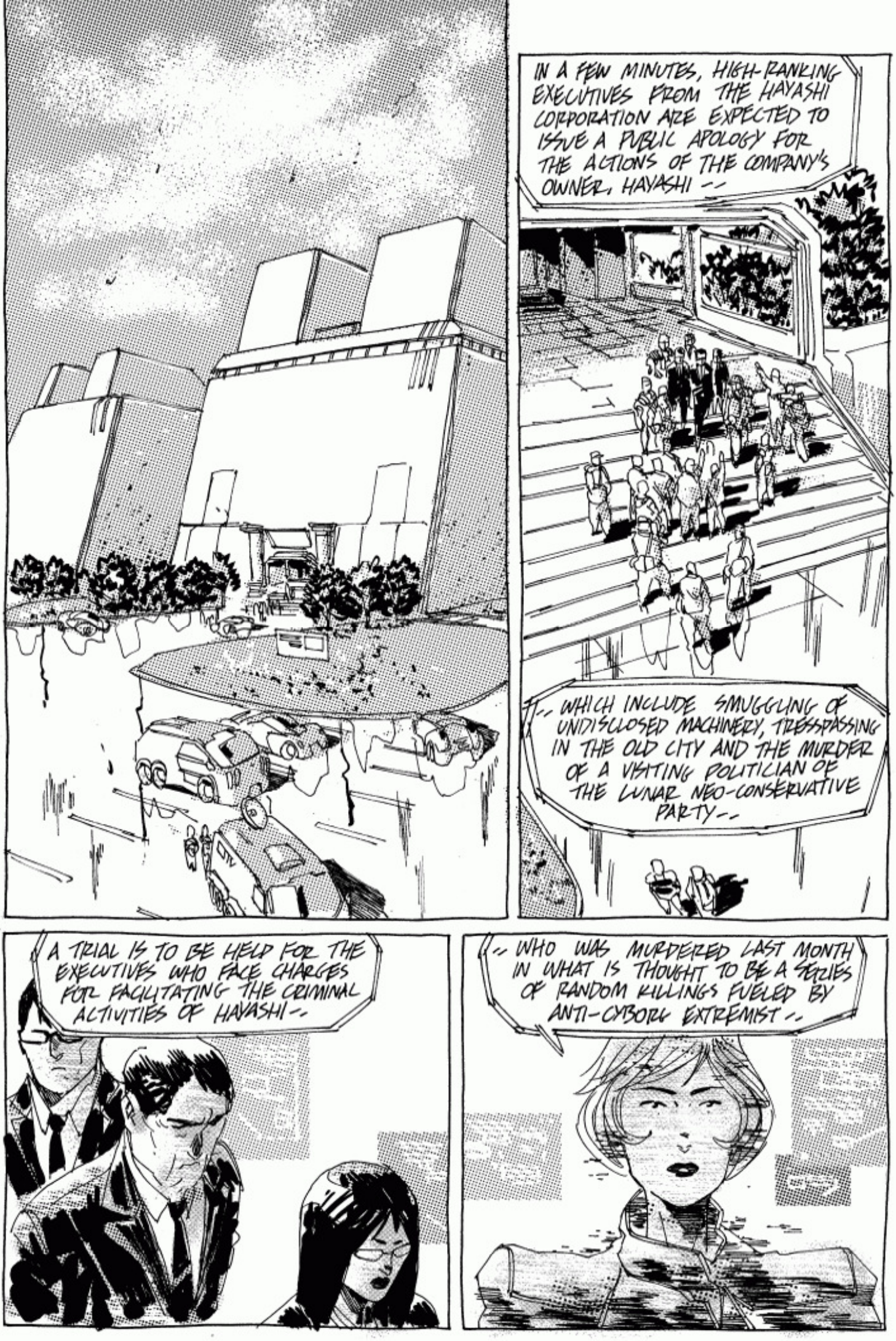
IT WAS WORTH--
EVERYTHING...
BUT WE FAILED...
SO CLOSE
...
CAN'T YOU IMAGINE--
AGAINST ALL ODDS, TO
ACHIEVE SO MUCH
...
HOW DO YOU GIVE ALL
THAT UP AND...
...DIE?
THIS LITTLE COUNTRY
OF YOURS WOULD NOT
EXIST IF NOT FOR
ME...
THAT DOESN'T MEAN
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING
YOU WANT, HAYASHI!
BUT...
AS YOU
SAID
...
IT'S ALL OVER,
NOW...

BMMM DUHHHN
SKREEE
LOOK! WE DID IT!
BDMM
CRASH


SHIT!!
THE STRUCTURE WON'T HOLD FOR LONG.
THE ENTRANCE HAS ALREADY COLLAPSED.
THERE IS A HATCH TO THE RIGHT WHICH LEADS OUTSIDE...
FOR ME, THERE IS NOTHING.
GO.
I HAVE DONE WHAT I'VE DONE AND I REGRET NOTHING.

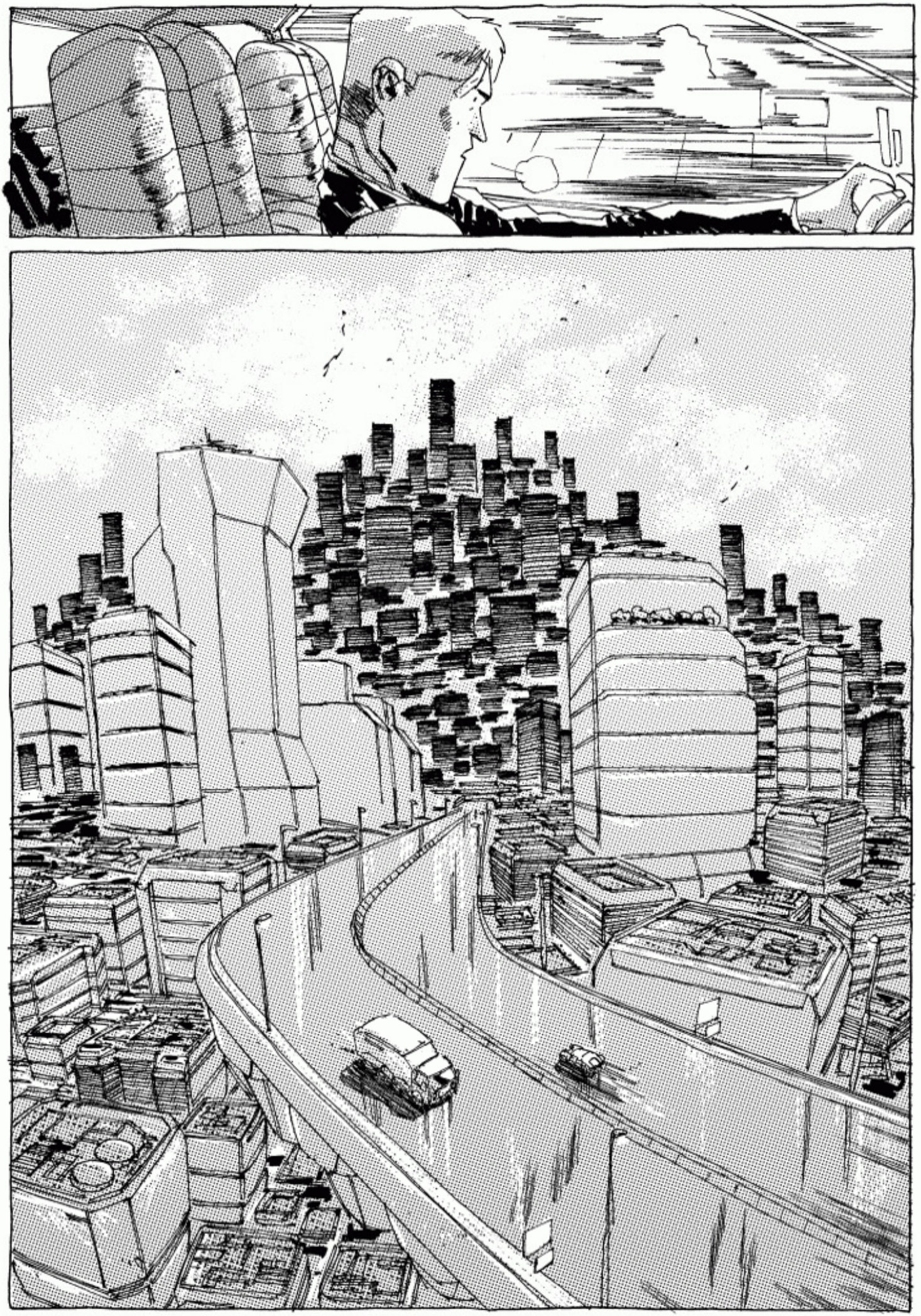
MMM
CHMLLR
RUMBL
GASP
COUGH
HACK
CRASHH
MMMMMM
SKRLEE
GRAH!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

SOLANO!
I'M GOOD ...
IS HAYASHI ...
DEAD... I THINK ...


IN A FEW MINUTES, HIGH-RANKING EXECUTIVES FROM THE HAYASHI CORPORATION ARE EXPECTED TO ISSUE A PUBLIC APOLOGY FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE COMPANY'S OWNER, HAYASHI --
-- WHICH INCLUDE SMUGGLING OF UNDISCLOSED MACHINERY, TRESSPASSING IN THE OLD CITY AND THE MURDER OF A VISITING POLITICIAN OF THE LUNAR NEO-CONSERVATIVE PARTY --
A TRIAL IS TO BE HELD FOR THE EXECUTIVES WHO FACE CHARGES FOR FACILITATING THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HAYASHI --
-- WHO WAS MURDERED LAST MONTH IN WHAT IS THOUGHT TO BE A SERIES OF RANDOM KILLINGS FUELED BY ANTI-CYBORG EXTREMIST --

BULLSHIT.
THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW WHAT HAYASHI WAS REALLY UP TO.
THIS IS TOO BIG, SOLANO. EVEN WE DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT...
IT'S BETTER IF WE KEEP THE LID ON THIS, FOR A WHILE.
KCHK
BETTER FOR WHO?
KCHAK
BRWWM

--SCANDAL OF UNPRECEDENTED SCALE IN THE HISTORY OF NEW ATHENS--
KNNNNN
--HAS CREATED NEW TENSIONS IN THE RELATIONS WITH THE LUNAR COLONY--
--EXPECTED TO REINVIGORATE THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT--
JESUS ...
AND OF COURSE, THE QUESTION ON EVERYONES MIND--
WHAT ELSE COULD BE HAPPENING IN THE OLD CITY, WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING?



NEW ATHENS
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DEAD END